

**LIVES OF THE EARLY  
POPES. ST. PETER TO  
ST. SILVESTER**

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Lives of the Early Popes. St. Peter to St. Silvester by Thomas Meyrick

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**THOMAS MEYRICK**

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St. Peter to St. Silvester.

BY THE

REV. THOMAS MEYRICK, M.A.,

AUTHOR OF "THE LIFE OF ST. WENEFRED," ETC.



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THIS LITTLE VOLUME OF THE FIRST SERIES  
OF THE POPES' LIVES  
Is Inscribed  
To WILLIAM HERBERT, ESQ., OF CLYTHA,  
UNDER WHOSE HONOURED ROOF  
IT WAS COMPLETED.

100

100



## P R E F A C E.

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THE object of this work is to give a simple consecutive account of the lives of the early Popes. It is taken partly from Bartholomew Platina, of Cremona, who wrote by order of Pope Sixtus IV., and dedicated his work to him, and partly from Alphonsus Ciaconi, a Dominican, supplemented by Father Oldoin, S.J., with occasional reference to Baronius and others. In his preface, Platina justly observes that the true history of illustrious men is a great benefit to mankind, enabling posterity to converse with men of past times, to take counsel with them, and imitate their virtues as if they saw them living. It is a study that contributes to true civilization and practical progress in every department of knowledge, so much so, that authors who have well described the actions of celebrated men, are reckoned among the first of mankind for wisdom and intelligence. But above all, the lives of the Popes are calculated to give honour to God, glory to the Church, and good examples to men, for it is they who have been the keepers of the Christian commonwealth, and by their labours